

**To:** Brooks, Janet[Brooks.Janet@epa.gov]; Appaji, Sairam[appaji.sairam@epa.gov]; Casanova, Rafael[Casanova.Rafael@epa.gov]; Baumgarten, Gary[baumgarten.gary@epa.gov]; Sanchez, Petra[sanchez.petra@epa.gov]; Coltrain, Katrina[coltrain.katrina@epa.gov]; Sullivan, Robert[sullivan.robert@epa.gov]; Stankosky, Laura[stankosky.laura@epa.gov]; Purcell, Mark[purcell.mark@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Meyer, John[Meyer.John@epa.gov]; Andrews, Lawrence[andrews.lawrence@epa.gov]  
**From:** Sanchez, Carlos  
**Sent:** Thur 8/13/2015 1:51:17 PM  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Thanks Janet. And thanks to everyone for your quick response. CAS

**From:** Brooks, Janet  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 8:38 AM  
**To:** Appaji, Sairam; Sanchez, Carlos; Casanova, Rafael; Baumgarten, Gary; Sanchez, Petra; Coltrain, Katrina; Luckett, Casey; Sullivan, Robert; Stankosky, Laura; Purcell, Mark  
**Cc:** Meyer, John; Andrews, Lawrence  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

The United Nuclear Corp (UNC) Site does not have any ongoing PRP lead site investigation field work at this site or at the nearby Northeast Church Rock (NECR) Mine Site (regulated by EPA Region 9). The ongoing UNC groundwater remediation work is regulated by the EPA, Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the New Mexico Environment Department. The groundwater was contaminated from seepage from a mill tailings repository constructed in the late 1970's. The tailings cells currently do not contain any free water. Groundwater is pumped and treated through two on-site evaporation ponds. No discharge occurs to creeks or other surface water bodies at the site.

Ongoing soil remediation work is in the remedial design phase to remove waste from the NECR mine and place the mine waste on top of the existing mill waste tailings cells at the UNC site. There is no active field investigation work occurring at this time. To my knowledge, there are no open adits and no surface discharge of mine water at this mine. There are no perennial flowing bodies of surface water near this mine though there are periods of heavy arroyo flooding during severe rain events.

Historically, on July 16, 1979, the UNC tailings South cell breached, causing a loss of approximately 94 million gallons of tailings liquid and about 1100 tons of tailings solids into the adjacent "Pipeline Arroyo". This local arroyo drains into the north branch of the Rio Puerco arroyo which joins the south branch near Gallup, NM. The tailings spill extended westward into the State of Arizona for 20-25 miles and consisted of heavy metals and radioactive constituents.

Janet Brooks

Remedial Project Manager

EPA Region 6

214-665-7598

**From:** Appaji, Sairam

**Sent:** Thursday, August 13, 2015 7:56 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Carlos; Casanova, Rafael; Baumgarten, Gary; Brooks, Janet; Sanchez, Petra; Coltrain, Katrina; Luckett, Casey; Sullivan, Robert; Stankosky, Laura; Purcell, Mark

**Cc:** Meyer, John

**Subject:** RE: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Carlos,

At the Homestake Site, currently there is no ongoing EPA lead site investigation field work. The ongoing remediation work is regulated by Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the New Mexico Environment Department. Contaminated groundwater is extracted for treatment through Reverse Osmosis system and some portion is also directly discharged into evaporation ponds. The evaporation ponds are permitted through NMED's discharge permit. No discharge occurs in to creeks or other surface water bodies at the site.

Currently EPA is conducting a CERCLA RI/FS equivalency for work completed under NRC's authority. As part of the RI/FS equivalency EPA is conducting a re-assessment of the background groundwater quality at the site through review of existing data. EPA in the near future may require Homestake to collect additional data from existing monitor wells or potential new wells to satisfy CERCLA equivalency.

Sai Appaji

Remedial Project Manager

EPA Region 6

214-665-3126



**From:** Sanchez, Carlos  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 5:02 PM  
**To:** Casanova, Rafael <[Casanova.Rafael@epa.gov](mailto:Casanova.Rafael@epa.gov)>; Appaji, Sairam <[appaji.sairam@epa.gov](mailto:appaji.sairam@epa.gov)>; Baumgarten, Gary <[baumgarten.gary@epa.gov](mailto:baumgarten.gary@epa.gov)>; Brooks, Janet <[Brooks.Janet@epa.gov](mailto:Brooks.Janet@epa.gov)>; Sanchez, Petra <[sanchez.petra@epa.gov](mailto:sanchez.petra@epa.gov)>; Coltrain, Katrina <[coltrain.katrina@epa.gov](mailto:coltrain.katrina@epa.gov)>; Lockett, Casey <[Lockett.Casey@epa.gov](mailto:Lockett.Casey@epa.gov)>; Sullivan, Robert <[sullivan.robert@epa.gov](mailto:sullivan.robert@epa.gov)>; Stankosky, Laura <[stankosky.laura@epa.gov](mailto:stankosky.laura@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Meyer, John <[Meyer.John@epa.gov](mailto:Meyer.John@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week  
**Importance:** High

Please write a short paragraph for the following mining sites by noon tomorrow (8/13/15). I need this to discuss with Pam tomorrow afternoon. Thanks for your help.

See Warren's paragraph below. We need something similar but for your sites, it needs to be based on the criteria listed in the memo below. We also need to include the population in the surrounding area that may be impacted and where does the drainage go to, name of river, creek, etc.. More to come tomorrow. We may need to stop investigation work at all mining sites. We will get clarification tomorrow. CAS

Tar Creek

Homestake

Chevron Questa

Jackpile

UNC

**From:** Petersen, Chris  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 4:15 PM  
**To:** Banipal, Ben; Price, Lisa; Sanchez, Carlos  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

**Importance:** High

Sent from my Windows Phone

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**From:** Zehner, Warren  
**Sent:** 8/12/2015 3:56 PM  
**To:** Petersen, Chris  
**Cc:** Webster, Susan; Rinehart, Jon  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

Chris:

All the mines associated with the TRONOX NAUM Region 6 area do not meet any of the criteria listed in the memo below. All of these mines have had the surface features removed either by the mine owner or NM MMD. To my knowledge there are no open adits and no surface discharge of mine water at any of these mines. Further, there are no perennial flowing bodies of surface anywhere near these mines. Further, all of these mines have been managed through the NM MMD closure process since the early 1990s. Surface conditions for all of these mines are well document from a health/safety standpoint within the NM MMD closure criteria. Since these mines do not meet any of the criteria described and there condition has been well documented since the early 1990s we request the ability to continue our radiological characterizations of these mines.

Warren

**From:** Price, Lisa  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 2:06 PM  
**To:** Zehner, Warren; Rinehart, Jon  
**Subject:** FW: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week  
**Importance:** High

Don't know if this a real request.

Lisa Marie Price

US EPA Region 6

Grants Mining District Coordinator

214 665 6744

**From:** Mahmud, Shahid

**Sent:** Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:36 AM

**To:** Adams, Bill; Biggs, Kirby; Carr, Lofton; Casanova, Rafael; Doolan, Mark; Gunter, Jason; Hanley, Jim; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hoogerheide, Roger; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michael; Marcy, Ken; Moreen, Ed; Price, Lisa; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Sparks, Sara; Teichert, Candice; Tomten, Dave; Adams, Bill; Autrey, Brad; Aycock, Jim; Baumgarten, Gary; Bless, Diana; Butler, Barbara; Carr, Lofton; Chadwick, Dan; Cherepy, Andrea; Conway, Bette; Cozza, Daniel; Cruz, Francisco; Desai, Sheila; Deschambault, Lynda; Devito, Steve; DiCosmo, Nefertiti; Dixon, Douglas; Doolan, Mark; Forren, John; Forrest, Sabrina; Geselbracht, Jeanne; Godsey, Cindi; Goodrick, John; Grandinetti, Cami; Hanley, Jim; Hardy, Michael; Hathaway, Ed; Hillenbrand, John; Hood, Lynne; Housman, Van; Hudiburgh, Gary; Jackson, Brad; Jenkins, Joy; Jessop, Carter; Byrne, Jim; Johnson, Brent; Long, Larry; Lavaty, Ann; Lazorachak, Jim; Lensink, Andy; Lesser, Ben; Ellis, Lisa; Low, Seth; Mahmud, Shahid; Mahoney, Michele; Manoyan, Simon; Marcy, Ken; Mayer, Kevin; Miller, Anna; Egidi, Philip; Progeess, Christina; Purcell, Mark; Riley, Gary; Root, Charlie; Roy, Stephen; Russell, Carol; Teichert, Candice; Teitelbaum, Daniel; Tiago, Joseph; Tomten, Dave; Watt, Jamey; Wilkening, Matt

**Subject:** Fw: URGENT: We need to develop a list by the end of this week

**Importance:** High

Folks,

I am working at the Emergency Operations Center related to the Gold King Mine spill. As you know, Gina McCarthy is in Colorado and meeting with three attorney generals. Jim Woolford is going to have a call with the Division Directors and will be sending out an email stating the following:

While we continue to investigate the root causes of last week's release of mining waste at the Gold King Mine in Colorado, we are instructing our Regions to immediately cease any field investigation work at mines including tailings facilities. We are conducting an investigation of the factors that led to last week's incident. Based on the lessons

learned from that investigation, we will determine what guidance may be necessary to avoid similar incidents at other sites. While we stand down on existing field investigations and assessments at these mining sites, we also are instructing our Regions to identify existing sites with similarities to the Gold King Mine site to identify any immediate threats and appropriate response actions.

In the meantime the NMT has been tasked to come up with an inventory of sites that have ongoing or future assessments with features containing fluids (mine workings, tailings dams, open pits, heap leaches). So we need to develop a matrix of sites with the following fields:

Site Name

Location

Mine Features

Features containing water

Do the mine bearing features have:

Controls in-place (plugs, hydraulic drawdown)

No controls in place

No hydraulic issues

There may be more information but I need to jump on to another call. Thanks!

Shahid Mahmud  
Team Leader  
EPA Abandoned Mine Lands Team  
703-603-8789